



Find the twelve hazards...

Pretend you're the cyclist at the bottom of this picture.

Can you see 12 hazards that could cause an accident?

The Answers...

Good cyclists watch the road at least 12 seconds ahead, looking for hazardous situations -- or situations that could become hazardous.

If they see a parked car or a dangerous drain grate up the road, they look back for traffic and safely merge left well before getting there.

If they see a car up ahead waiting to pull into the road, they watch it closely and get ready to take evasive action if it moves.

If they see a pedestrian running towards the street, they slow down and pay close attention to the person's actions.

The quiz on the opposite side shows a cyclist facing twelve hazards. These, along with strategies for dealing with them, are presented below:

1. **Wrong-way cyclist:** Slow down, look back and pass the cyclist on the left when safe; wrong way cyclists tend to dive towards the curb.
2. **Pedestrian:** Slow down, be ready to stop if he walks out in front of you.
3. **Parked car door:** Slow down, look back and move left around the car when safe; allow three feet of clearance to parked cars.
4. **Crack on roadway:** Don't ride over it if possible; if you have to cross it, do so as near 90 degrees as you can.
5. **Pothole:** Look back and go around when safe.
6. **Leaves:** Look back and go around when safe.
7. **Dog:** Watch it closely. If it moves towards you, yell "GO HOME!" If that doesn't work, get off the bike on the side opposite the dog and walk away; keep the bike between you and the dog. When you get home, tell your parents.
8. **Railroad tracks:** Look back and cross as near to 90 degrees as you can.
9. **Train:** Wait for the train to go by!!!
10. **Car backing out:** Watch it closely; be prepared to stop.
11. **Car passing unsafely:** Slow down a bit and watch the car closely; it may turn right!
12. **Drain grate:** Look back and move left to go around when safe.